



God's grace has opened doors to an unprecedented mission opportunity in communist Vietnam.

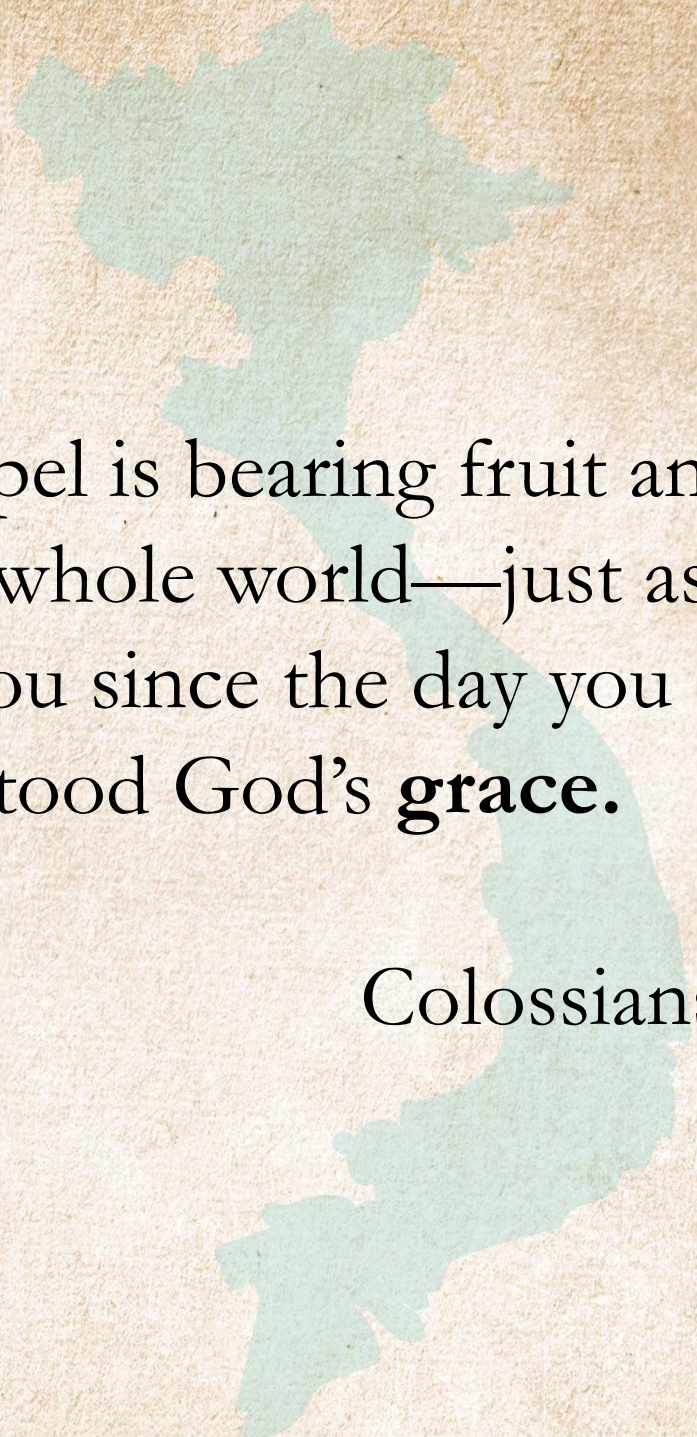
Grace

HMONG OUTREACH
IN VIETNAM

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Grace

HMONG OUTREACH
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In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's **grace**.

Colossians 1:6

Rev. Bounkeo Lor: Originally a WELS pastor from Grace Hmong Lutheran Church in Kansas City, Kansas



Where it all began

Zang Lou (pictured), a leader within the Hmong Fellowship Church in Vietnam, reached out to Lor and requested theological training after viewing an online sermon in 2011.





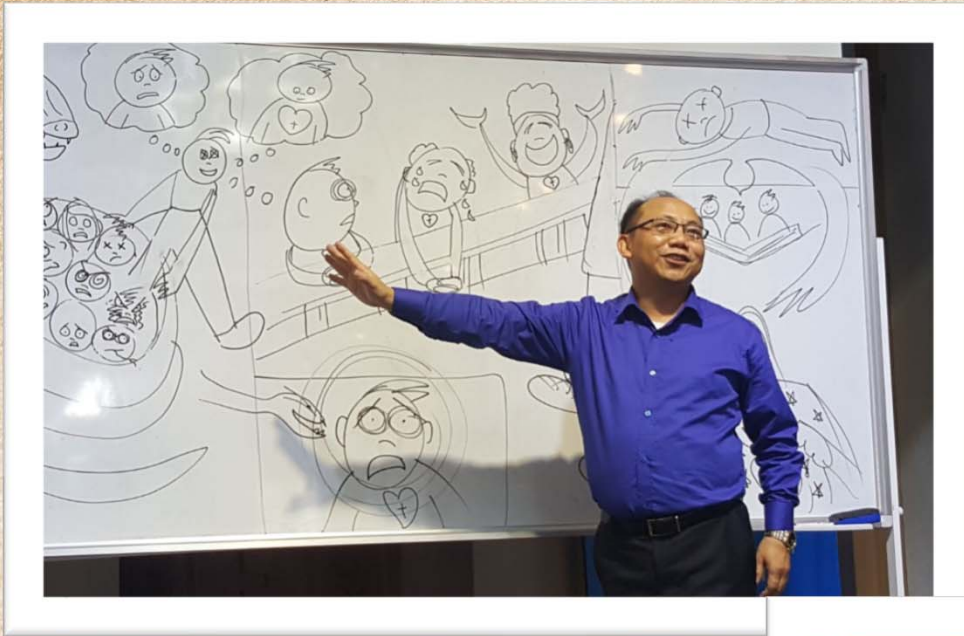
In 2011, the Hmong Fellowship Church (HFC) had 55,000 members scattered throughout Vietnam



Most HFC members reside in rural areas,
relying on farming to provide for their families



Many HFC members heard about Christianity through radio broadcasts and materials in the 1990s



Most HFC church leaders had only received one or two *days* of theological training before WELS arrived



Rev. Lor visited Vietnam for the first time in 2012.
Since then, he has visited over 24 times.





The HFC is thirsty for the gospel
60 leaders attend each training session in Hanoi



These 60 leaders take what they have learned back to their rural congregations



The Pastoral Studies Institute (PSI) was brought in to assist Lor in 2016



When PSI first visited in 2016, the HFC reported that their church had grown to 70,000 members



Lor was called to be full-time
Hmong Asia ministry coordinator in 2017



WELS Multi-Language Publications (MLP) was brought in to evaluate the types of materials needed by the HFC



Members of the HFC and the Vietnamese Fellowship Church (VFC) traveled to the U.S. to learn more about WELS operations in August 2017



HFC leaders once fought over which man-made rules could earn people passage into heaven



Now, the message of grace has brought peace to the Hmong Fellowship Church

An incredible, unprecedented opportunity . . .

The communist Vietnamese government has invited WELS to build a theological training facility in Hanoi, Vietnam.





The Holy Spirit is working in the hearts of the Hmong people
The HFC now has more than 100,000 members



WELS Missions representatives visited Vietnam in 2018 to meet with HFC and VFC leadership and assess what is needed for a theological training facility



350 HFC pastors
are ready to begin
their seminary-level
education

2,500 additional HFC leaders will receive catechism
training through regional seminars and special courses held
at the facility in Hanoi



WELS is collecting a special synodwide offering to raise \$2 million for the training facility in Vietnam



The theological training facility will be based in Hanoi, a central location for all HFC leaders



The new facility would include a worship space, dormitories and kitchen facilities for 60 people, ministry offices for leaders of the HFC, and classrooms



Operational costs will include salaries, living and travel costs for rural church leaders, and travel expenses for regional seminars throughout Vietnam

I don't have anything to send to my WELS brothers and sisters in the US to even begin to show our gratitude or appreciation. All we can send is our 'empty' words of Thank You to you. But we are thankful. We trust that in the future the training will continue to equip leaders so that the gospel will spread to many more throughout Vietnam. Pray for us. Pray for our religious freedom in this country, especially for the Hmong in the rural areas. And pray that the many minority people will have the opportunity to hear the gospel and believe it.

Pastor Tsavxwm Ham, Chairman of the HFC





This training has changed me a lot as a pastor as well. Before the training I just preached the Law - I treated people with contempt. If I saw a member committing sin, I hated them. If they had addictions, I hated them. Now, as I look back, I see that I was a Pharisee at that time. Now, I hate that time of my life. But since I received the training from Pastor Lor and Professor Bare and the other pastors, I have learned to show compassion to the sinner. I have learned to show Christ to the sinner.

Pastor Vang, Shan Zhou Fu Church

I had dreamed for training for a long time. Many members would come and ask me to share the Word of God with them, but I didn't know how to do it. Since receiving training, I have grown in my confidence in what I believe and in sharing God's word. We've stopped searching for theological answers and materials from other churches. We know we have the truth now - and we know where to find it!

Pastor Lau, Immanuel 1997
Church



"I want to thank the Lutheran church for supporting the training. We don't actually deserve to receive anything from the WELS—but they just give and support the training by sending professors and providing the financial ability for the training to take place. For that—I thank you.

Thank you so much. I will never forget you. You helped us to see the Word of God clearly. You have brought us the truth— and that has changed our lives."

Pastor Vang, Shan Zhou Fu Church



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